

Appl. No. 10/823,287
Response to Office Action mailed June 1, 2005

Att'y Dkt. No. 114141-020

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the enclosed Fig. 9 for the original Fig. 9 filed with the application.

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REMARKS

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-6. Claims 1-6 stand rejected. In this Response, claim 7 has been added and no claims have been amended or cancelled. Thus, claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

Drawing Objection

The Office Action objects to Fig. 9 as not having a legend such as Prior Art.

In response, the original drawing sheet of Fig. 9 is replaced with the enclosed replacement drawing sheet of Fig. 9. The enclosed Fig. 9 includes the legend Prior Art.

Applicants submit the drawing objection has been overcome.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §§102, 103

The Office Action at pages 2 and 3 rejects claim 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Figure 9 of the present application. At pages 3-4 of the Office Action, claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Figure 9 of the present application in view of Krupp (US 2,496,878). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants' invention pertains to an air/water-tight slide fastener. Referring to the example of Applicants' invention shown in the drawings, one feature of Applicants' invention is that the end stop 14 has an improved flange portion 14b. The flange portion 14b extends enough to be integrally fixed to open edges 30a of an article 30. The reference numbers are merely for reference to the drawings and are not intended to limit the claims. This feature is recited in claim 1 as "at least part of the flange portion be extensive enough to be integrally fixed to the opening edges of the article."

A comparison of Applicants' extended flange portion 14b to the flange portion 114b of the end stop 114 in prior art Fig. 9 shows significant differences. The prior art flange portion 114b does not extend enough to be integrally fixed to open edges 30a of the article 30.

The Office Action asserts that the claim 1 limitation of "at least part of the flange portion be extensive enough to be integrally fixed to the opening edges of the article" is a statement of intended use. However, that claim limitation recites the structural or positional feature of the

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amount of extension of the flange portion of the end stop. Particularly, the limitation defines the structural or positional feature of the amount of extension of the flange portion relative to the opening edges of the article.

Applicants' invention having the extended flange portion of the end stop can provide significant advantages. Because the flange portion of the end stop extends to be integrally fixed with the opening edges of the article, the resiliency of the flange portion 14b is restrained by the opening edges 30a of the article 30. Consequently, the bending stress of the flange portion 14b is reduced and otherwise excessive bending stress to which the air/water-tight fastener tape 11 is subjected is reduced. As a result, strong bending stresses tending to largely stretch the part 11a of the air/water-tight fastener tape 11 lying in the lower edge of the flange portion 14b are not generated, so that the tape part 11a will never be peeled off. See the specification at page 12, lines 14-23.

Thus, claim 1 is allowable. Dependent claims 2-6 are also allowable at least for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Turning to the §103(a) rejection, the stiffening portion 31 of Krupp may correspond to the end stop 14 of the present invention. However, the Krupp stiffening portion 31 has a block but does not have any structure that corresponds to the flange portion of the end stop 14 of the present invention. Furthermore, unlike the end stop 14 of the present invention, the Krupp stiffening portion 31 is not fixed to the article 18 but to the rubber coatings 28, 29 coated on the flexible stringers 22, 23.

Furthermore, some of the drawings of Krupp show a part marked by reference number 19a adjacent to the stiffening portion 31. Krupp refers to that part 19a as either "end 19a of the closure 15" or "end 19a of the aperture". However, Krupp is utterly silent about the structure of the part marked 19a, and accordingly, the Krupp part 19a is not Applicants' extended flange portion of the end stop.

Thus, Applicants submit that Figure 9 alone or in combination with Krupp does not anticipate nor render obvious Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, the §102 and §103 and rejections should be withdrawn.

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New Claim

New independent claim 7 has been added. Claim 7 is similar to the combination of claims 1 and 3 and is fully supported by the application as originally filed. Applicants submit claim 7 is also allowable.

CONCLUSION

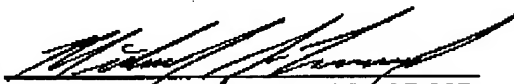
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 31, 2005

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